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Remarks

Claims 1-7 (each amended), 9-16 (each amended), 27, 28 (amended) and 31-32 (each amended) are pending. Claims 8, 17-26, 29-30 and 33-36 have been cancelled to simplify prosecution by eliminating certain generally duplicative claims. New claims 37-40 have been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the claim amendments and the following remarks.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-7, 9-15, and 28 were amended to clarify the scope of the invention without narrowing the scope of the claims. Claim 16 was amended to include the initiator system recited in independent claim 1 as originally filed. Claim 31 was amended to recite that the bottom layer includes first and second polymeric binders, an initiator system and a free radical polymerizable system. New claims 37-40 are directed to printing plate precursors having a radiation sensitive layer that includes first and second polymeric materials, an initiator system and a free radical polymerizable system. These new claims are fully supported by the claims and specification as originally filed.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Office Action objected to claim 11 for improperly depending from claim 13. Claim 11 has been amended to depend from claim 10. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 16, 24-28, 31, and 33-34 were rejected under § 102(a) as being anticipated by EP 1 106 381 A1 to Sawada et al. More particularly, the Office Action stated that Sawada et al. reports a radiation sensitive layer in which polyethylene oxide may be included as a binder polymer and polyethers may be included to enhance the strength of the photosensitive layer. The Office Action further stated that Sawada et. al. reports a protective layer adapted to prevent oxygen from mixing with the photosensitive layer.

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Claim 16 has been amended to recite that the negative-working bottom layer comprises the initiator system recited in claim 1. As noted by the Examiner in Paragraph 8 of the Office Action, Sawada et al. does not teach or suggest the claimed initiator system, in particular, the claimed polycarboxylic acid compound (i.e. Formula I). Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim 31, as amended, recites a method for preparing an on-press developable printing plate, in which the bottom layer of the printing plate includes first and second polymeric binders, an initiator system and a free radical polymerizable system. Applicants respectfully submit that Sawada et al. does not report a bottom layer including these components. Additionally, Sawada et al. does not report on-press development of a printing plate precursor without a separate development step, but rather, reports that the precursor is developable in water. Furthermore, all of the examples reported in Sawada et al. utilize a separate development step rather than utilizing on-press development. Therefore, Sawada et al. does not report or suggest the claimed bottom layer or the on-press development step, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

New claim 37 recites a printing plate precursor having a radiation-sensitive layer including a first polymeric binder that is free of acidic groups having a pKa value less than or equal to 8, a second polymeric binder that includes polyether moieties, an initiator system and a free radical polymerizable material. As noted by the Examiner, the cited art does not report a radiation sensitive layer having the claimed polymeric binders or initiator system. New claims 38-40 depend from claim 37. Applicants respectfully request allowance of these claims.

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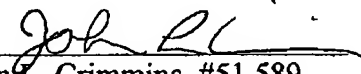
CONCLUSION

The pending claims are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request a notice to that effect. If there are any remaining questions, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By:


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